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Annual Reports

Board of Park Comissioners

Terre Haute, Indiana

1909 - 1910

REFERENCE
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VIEW NEAR MAIN ENTRANCE—COLLETT PARK.

COMPLIMENTS OF

The Board of Park Commissioners

BY Frank Bruhn

FIRST AND SECOND

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Board of Park Commissioners

OF

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

For the period from February 14, 1909, to December 31, 1910

The Moore-Langen Ptg. Co.
Terre Haute.

FOUNTAIN—CITY PARK.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

OF THE CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

1909

Terre Haute, Indiana, December 1, 1909.

Honorable James Lyons, Mayor, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Sir:—The Board of Park Commissioners have the honor to submit herewith the first annual report of the Department of Public Parks.

As a record of accomplishments it is brief for three reasons; the late time at which the Board assumed control; the lack of knowledge as to park conditions and park needs, and the lack of funds with which to make any material changes and improvements. This Board desires, however, notwithstanding these handicaps, to call your attention to some of the things done and to what is proposed for the future.

It is with considerable pride that this Board points to the thorough renovation given Collett Park. The buildings were repaired and placed in excellent condition. A privet hedge was placed about the park. New walks were laid out and the old ones as well as the driveways regraveled. Many trees and shrubs were set out. Many amusement devices for the children were erected. City Park, Memorial Park and Rose Park received more or less attention during the season.

By reason of Senate Bill No. 171 entitled "An Act classifying Cities in the State of Indiana, etc.," passed by the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Indiana, and approved by the Governor, and becoming effective February 15, 1909, the City of Terre Haute passed from what is known as a city of the "third class" to be a city of the "second class" under the classification of Senate Bill No. 75, entitled "An Act concerning Municipal Corporations" passed by the General Assembly and approved March 6, 1905, the same generally being known as the "Cities and Towns Acts."

By this change of classification the Board of Public Works of the City of Terre Haute, which had hitherto had charge of, control and management of all public parks, play grounds, etc., belonging to said city, gave up such charge, control and management to the newly created Department of Public Parks to be known as the "Board of Park Commissioners."

This Board consists of four members appointed by the Mayor for a term of four years. Upon the taking effect of this law, Mayor James Lyons appointed the following members: John G. Heinl, A. Herz, D. E. Reagan and Joshua Jump for one, two, three and four years respectively. Upon the call of the Mayor who is a member of the Board ex-officio, these gentlemen met at the office of the Board of Public Works in the City Building at the corner of Fourth and Walnut streets and perfected an organization by choosing Joshua Jump, chairman, and J. G. Heinl, secretary of the Board.

This Board came into control of the park, play-ground and boulevard system of the city at a time of considerable enthusiasm on the part of the people in the matter of the acquisition of public parks. The demand for more parks and play-grounds in the city had just culminated in the purchase of three considerable tracts of land, negotiations for another, and condemnatory proceedings on the part of the Board of Public Works for two others. Memorial Park, in the northwest part of the city, Chestnut Place in the southwest part of the city, later named Voorhees Park, and the Pflaging property, named Rose Park by this Board, in the northeast part of the city, were new parks just acquired but which the Board of Public Works had not had time to improve. Practically all of the details of the transfer of what was known as Parsons Field, subsequently named Thompson Park, were completed when this Board took control. Condemnatory proceedings were under way by which the city expected to get possession of two tracts of land on the river front, north and south of the Wabash river bridge, but the Board of Park Commissioners have so far allowed the proceedings to rest in abeyance.

Collett Park

The buildings in Collett Park were found to be much out of repair. There was no fence about the grounds. Patrons and frequenters of the park had broken new paths across the lawn in many places. Many bare spots required new sod and live trees were needed to replace dead ones.

It was late in March before the Board of Park Commissioners were able to undertake active work. It was found necessary to employ an extra force of men to be able to get the park open at the usual time in the spring. The opening was held on May 15. The public was surprised and pleased at what it found. Many flattering comments were made by the press and individuals upon the appearance and improved dress of the park.

All of the buildings had been put in excellent repair. Every one had been given a fresh coat of paint inside and out. The plumbing was overhauled and put in the best condition. A privet hedge was planted about the east, south and west side of the park at considerable expense. New walks and drives were opened and well graveled. The bare places in the lawn were sodded. Artistic beds of annuals were placed about the grounds. Many banks of hardy shrubs were put where their flowers and foliage would be

most effective. More than half a hundred young trees were set out on the grounds to replace dead ones and to give added shade in the future. The band stand was remodeled. A well was sunk in the north part of the park affording plenty of pure, cool water. Seventy-five new benches were bought and the old ones repaired. Hitching posts were set along the drive in the north part of the park for the accommodation of those who drive.

No effort had ever been made by the city to afford amusements for the children. It was determined to set aside a portion of the park for the special use of the children. With this end in mind ten large lawn swings and sixteen see-saws were erected. For the smaller children a large sand box filled with clean, white sand was prepared. All of these things were placed in the north part of the park. A dozen permanent tables with benches for picnic parties were scattered throughout this section. Sunday afternoon and night band concerts were given regularly throughout the season. The Board introduced the feature of Thursday night concerts during the warmest part of the season. The attendance of evenings throughout the week was much larger than ever before in the history of the park. The swings, see-saws and sand piles were a source of the greatest satisfaction and enjoyment to the children. Not once during the season was there an accident even of the most trivial character to any of the hundreds of children who used the swings or see-saws.

Certain terse and well defined rules for the government of the parks of the city were printed on heavy cards and posted conspicuously in various parts of the park grounds. The following is the list of such rules:

Rules

Do not use profane language or be too noisy or boisterous in the park.

Do not pull, break or mutilate flowers, shrubbery or trees.

Intoxicating liquors, fire arms, fire works or games of chance will not be permitted in this park.

Do not deface the exterior or interior of the buildings by writing upon them or carving in them.

Do not write on or carve tables or benches.

Do not throw any missile or in any manner mutilate the property of the park.

Run your automobiles at slow speed.

Walk your horses while inside the park.

Hitch your horses only to the hitch-racks provided at the north end of the park.

The hedge around the park must not be stepped over or otherwise damaged.

Dogs will be allowed only when controlled by line or chain.

No vehicles or bicycles will be permitted on the passage devoted to pedestrians.

No circulars or other advertising or papers will be allowed to be distributed through the grounds.

Sleeping on the benches and seats or balustrades will not be allowed.

Violators of these rules will be rigidly prosecuted.

For the further better regulation of the parks and the comfort of the patrons, shows and exhibitions of every character were prohibited within a distance of five hundred feet of the park boundaries. Large Sunday school and lodge picnics were prohibited. Family gatherings and reunions were encouraged.

It may be said here that the public was duly appreciative of these efforts of the Board and very generally cheerfully observed all of the rules set forth. Early in the season there was a tendency on the part of a certain class of persons to abuse the privileges of the park by the use of loud language and by lingering unduly after closing hours. The park policemen were instructed to discourage these habits and later there was practically none of it. Improper language and unseemly sights were noticeable only by their absence.

The following brief resume of the conditions and prospects of each of the other parks and boulevards of the city may be worth noticing:

City Park

Centrally located on the main thoroughfare of the city this park while more for neighborhood use than for the general public because of its size, this park has proved to be a very popular resort as well as an ornament to the city. Little was done during the year to further improve it. It is the intention to erect a public comfort house in this park. A building of this character is much needed in this locality as well as in other parts of the city.

Memorial Park

The question of the improvement of Memorial Park was discussed at different meetings during the last season. Little was done, however, because of the lack of money.

Voorhees Park

Situated in the extreme southwest part of the city, Voorhees Park is the second in size of the public parks and the largest south of Wabash avenue. This tract of land was acquired a little over a year ago at the time of the general demand for more parks, particularly on the south side. It is almost thirteen acres in area and contains a splendid grove of native forest trees. As it stands now this park is not readily accessible from the street cars. At some time in the near future the question of the extension of the South Third street line should be taken up by the proper authorities.

Rose Park

During the early part of 1908 the Board of Public Works acquired of Mrs. Catherine and Mrs. Anna Pflaging a tract of approximately three acres by condemnation for the sum of $17,000. This land is located near Fifteenth and Elm streets, and was purchased because of the demand for a public park in the northeast part of the city.

The city did not obtain possession of this ground until the middle of the summer. The grounds were cleared of dead trees and debris and leveled up preparatory to taking up the work of permanent improvement. Upon the order of the Board of Public Works several hundred feet of stone curb and cement concrete sidewalks were placed along the streets bounding this park.

Ohio Street Boulevard

By action of the Common Council this handsome boulevard was turned over to this Board. It is one of the handsomest paved driveways in the city, consisting of a double roadway extending from Tenth and One-half street to Nineteenth street, with a grass plat through the center for the entire length. This Board has already ordered a large number of trees and shrubs to be placed on this grass plat.

Thompson Park

At the close of the park season work was commenced on the improvement of Thompson Park. While the city came into possession of this park early in the fall, yet it was by an agreement with the Indiana State Normal authorities of whom the ground was purchased, that institution should retain nominal possession of the park until the close of the athletic season. The Normal trustees at that time allowed the city a rebate of $500.00 for the use of the field during the summer and for the fence and building on the grounds.

Plans for the improvement of the park were submitted by Superintendent Henry Graham. A water main and street washers for the purpose of sprinkling the lawn were installed at considerable cost. Gravel and cinder walks were constructed. More than one hundred trees were set out on the grounds. An effort is being made to have the bust of Col. R. W. Thompson, after whom the park was named, moved to the park from the court house yard.

It was the judgment of the Board that a portion might be sold from the east side, consequently "Parsons Field subdivision," consisting of nine lots of good size were platted and sold. Certain obligations were assumed by the purchasers of the lots that assure a block of handsome residences facing the new park.

Receipts and Expenditures

In presenting the following tabulation of the financial status of this department, the Board desires to call attention to a few of the items. While the item "total expense" may seem rather large, yet it will be observed that more than half of it went to the purchase of "Parsons Field." Under the item "Incidentals and Repairs" are three special appropriations. These were for the purpose of converting to the park fund money received by this department from rental privileges and paid into the general fund of the city in the usual manner.

The Board of Park Commissioners spent no money before April 17, that being the date about which the Board of Public Works turned over the funds. Previous to that date the Board of Public Works expended $334.90. The total amount appropriated to the park account during the year was $25,252.50. This amount less the sum expended by the Board of Public Works is $24,917.60, the amount available for the Board of Park Commissioners. This Board expended $23,711.56. Of the balance $1,000 was carried over for the purpose for which it was appropriated and the remainder reverted at the close of the year to the general fund.

PARK FUND—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Items	Appropriation	Expended by Works Board	Available to Park Board	Expended by Park Board	Carried to 1910	Returned to General Fund
Salary of Superintendent and Assistants	$5,000.00	$323.50	$4,676.50	$5,422.50		
Light	1,500.00	....	1,500.00	1,036.00		
To Pay Balance to W. R. McKeen	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Music Special Appropriation, June 6, 1909	912.00		912.00	736.25		
Incidentals and Repairs	3,500.00	11.40	....			
Special Appropriation, June 7, 1909	150.00					
Special Appropriation, Sept. 6, 1909	175.50					
Special Appropriation, Dec. 3, 1909	515.00		4,329.10	4,015.97		
For Purchase of Parson's Field	12,500.00		12,500.00	12,500.00		
Totals	$25,252.50	$334.90	$24,917.60	$23,711.56	$1,000.00	$206.04

The arrangements by items is solely for the convenience of the Board. The City Controller recognizes but one park fund. See following page.

In the above tabulation it will be observed that one item, that of "salary of superintendent and assistants," shows a greater amount expended apparently than was appropriated to the item. In explanation of this it may be said that the City Controller carries the park account as a single fund under one appropriation. The items "salary of superintendent and assistants," "light" and "incidentals and repairs" may be drawn against promiscuously so long as the total amount of these items is not overdrawn. Special appropriations may be drawn against for those things only for which they are specifically appropriated. The items aforesaid are not recognized by the City Controller but were selected by the Board of Public Works for their own information and direction as to park expenditures and were retained by the present Board for the same purpose.

In conclusion this Board desires to thank your Honor for the opportunity you gave its members to serve the City in the capacity of Park Commissioners. The relations of the members of the Board have been agreeable and pleasant during the year. There has been unanimity of opinion upon practically every question discussed by the Board.

In addition to the thanks which the Board desires to extend to your Honor for the courtesies shown its members during the year and the congratulations for the close of a successful term of office, the members desire to thank the various other city officials with whom they have come in contact, for the uniformly courteous treatment received.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA JUMP, Chairman,
JOHN G. HEINL, Secretary,
D. E. REAGAN,
A. HERZ,
Board of Park Commissioners.

ACROSS THE LAWN—COLETTE PARK

PICNIC PARTY—COLLETT PARK

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

OF THE CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

1910

Terre Haute, Indiana, Dec. 1, 1910.

Honorable Louis Gerhardt, Mayor, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Sir.—The Board of Park Commissioners have the honor to submit herewith the second annual report of the Department of Public Parks for your consideration in accordance with the requirements of the statutes.

This report consists of three parts, namely a statement of what has been accomplished recommendations to your Honor for the future of the parks and a brief statement of the finances of the department.

It is suggested to your Honor at this time that Terre Haute really has no park system, but rather a number of isolated and individual parks and tracts of ground without regard to system. A system conceives a whole scheme of organized or created things regarded as forming one complete plan or whole. This Terre Haute has not. Two years ago there was an emphatic public sentiment favoring the acquisition of more public parks. This sentiment induced the authorities to acquire several new tracts of ground in various parts of the city, fairly well apportioned to the different sections of the city. The guiding principle in the acquisition of this new territory was distribution in relation to public demand in the four quarters of the city. There was at the same time a public sentiment in favor of securing some of the river front for park purposes which did not materialize at this time or subsequently.

There are approximately fifty acres in Terre Haute's parks, that is slightly less than one acre to the thousand of population according to the last census. Of the park acreage there are approximately thirty acres developed for public usage, that being about one-half acre to the thousand population. That is a very small percentage in comparison with other cities of the size of Terre Haute and larger. Harrisburg, Pa. with a population, of approximately, 80,000, has more than 700 acres of parks or almost nine acres per thousand of population. Indianapolis with approximately 250,000

population, has more than 1,000 acres of park lands or about four acres per thousand of the population and the park board there is planning to acquire more land.

The park system should have an acreage adequate to meet not only the needs of the present but also the reasonable needs of the future. And it is the duty of the authorities to acquire lands for such purposes before it becomes too expensive and too valuable for commercial reasons. The system should be definite and well organized, but plastic plan looking far into the future and out of which should grow every important act of not only the present but of all subsequent park boards.

Some such system should be developed at an early date. It should include the development of the present tracts along well defined lines, the acquisition of some river front before it is eternally too late, the purchase of a larger body of land than any now owned a few miles from the city and the consideration of a system of boulevards connecting the available grounds.

It is not suggested here what grounds or additions should be secured in this scheme of improvement or how it could be done. It is only suggested that it ought to be done and done soon in view of the fact that other cities the size of Terre Haute have park systems grounded on the same basic principles as here set forth.

The work of the last year has demonstrated one thing very conclusively, that a high standard of conditions can not be maintained without considerable cost to the city. While the members of this board feel that the affairs of the department have been administered at a very reasonable expense and that much has been done with the means at hand, yet they feel that with greater resources much more in proportion in the way of improving undeveloped park lands could have been accomplished.

It is with considerable pride that the board recalls attention to the physical appearance of the parks of the city during the summer of 1910. The lawns were in particularly fine condition, due largely to frequent and seasonable rains. The flowers at Collett, City and Thompson parks were more abundant than usual. Their color, design and luxuriance attracted attention and created frequent comment. In the fall, spring blooming bulbs were set out in the above named parks and it is expected that new beauties will be added to the early spring appearance of the grounds.

Many favorable comments were made by visitors during the summer on the appearance of Collett park. Travelers who were familiar with parks in other cities said that in its natural and primitive beauty it was the equal and in many ways the superior of similar parks in large cities.

It is really the show park of the city and there can be at no time a relaxation in the efforts to keep it up to a high degree of efficiency. It is the only free public play ground of the people of Terre Haute, and as such the people are demanding more of it each year. The band concerts are increas-

ing in popularity. Picnic parties fill the lawns during the warm summer evenings.

The question of diverting parts of the great crowds that attend the concerts must come up sooner or later. The handling and control of 10,000 people, especially at night, in the limited space about the band stand are no small problems. There is at present no other place where concerts may be held for the entertainment of large crowds. This is really a matter for serious consideration by your Honor and the board.

One of the greatest needs of the department is a greenhouse. The requirements of the parks in the city for flowers of various kinds have grown so that the expense is no small item when bought from local dealers. Last year with only three parks in which to place flowers the cost exceeded $400.00. At the close of the season enough flowers were sold at a nominal figure and given away to supply cuttings in abundance for next year's planting for all of the parks.

The cost of a greenhouse sufficiently large would not exceed $2,000 complete. Labor is required nearly all of the year round at various odd work about Collett park so that the item of taking care of it would be practically nothing. A much greater variety of flowers could be set in the parks with the facilities for growing them added.

In addition to a greenhouse this department should maintain a small nursery. There is a constant and growing need for shrubbery and trees. This material from the regular grower is quite an item of expense. A small tract of ground in a suitable location should be purchased or leased and a nursery instituted at the very earliest date. A supply of shrubs and trees would be kept then constantly on hands that would become adapted to the soil and local climatic conditions by frequent transplanting, and in the long run would yield much better results at considerably less cost.

By a rather unusual series of circumstances the entire personnel of the Board of Park Commissioners was changed about the first of the year. Upon the expiration of the term of John G. Heinl, the one year member of the board, Frederick A. Reckert was appointed in his stead for a period of four years. Judge Joshua Jump and Daniel E. Reagan, finding that the duties of commissioner required more time from their business than they were able to give, resigned. E. Z. Hanks and George A. Schaal were appointed for periods of three years and two years respectively to fill the unexpired terms of those gentlemen. A. Herz, the fourth member of the board, also resigned because, as he said, he spent his summers away from the city and consequently was unable to give his attention to the affairs of the board at the time when needed. Lee Goodman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of one year. Upon these changes being made in the board Superintendent Henry Graham handed in his resignation, which was accepted. Frank Brubeck, clerk of the board, was appointed to fill the vacancy, and R. O. Miller was made clerk in his stead.

Upon reorganization of the board Mr. Reckert was made chairman and Mr. Schaal secretary. The new members entered heartily into their new duties and at once begun to familiarize themselves with the conditions and needs of their charge.

No material changes were made in the policies and plans of the old board. Negotiations for ground on the river front were temporarily abandoned after failure of the board to get possession of the Morris tract at what was considered a reasonable figure. Plans for the improvement of Memorial park were also abandoned for the time upon the failure of the Council to appropriate money for that purpose. Other improvements as outlined by the old board for the year were practically carried to completion.

Collett Park

Numerous improvements were made at Collett Park during the year, both in a physical and moral way. Probably the most important thing was the elimination of the dust problem in relation to the driveways of the park. Being pioneers in the matter of oiling roadways in the city the board can point with pride to its success. The experiment was highly satisfactory and the park drives were popular during the season. Almost a mile of roadway in Collett park was sprinkled with a coating of odorless, asphaltum oil at a total cost of $156. The residents on Ninth street followed the example of the board and oiled Ninth street, thus making the park practically dustless with the exception of Seventh street on the west side of the park. The oil used was a heavy, black, standard oil that had few undesirable qualities for the purpose intended.

The driveway at the Seventh street entrance of the park was practically rebuilt. A new system of road building was employed with fairly good success. Upon the old road bed from which the surface had been removed down to a hard subgrade was placed about four inches of crushed stone. Over this was spread while hot a 90 per cent petroleum-asphaltum oil as a binder which was in turn covered with a dressing of finely crushed stone well rolled. The whole set quite solidly and afforded a smooth compact but elastic and dustless surface.

All of the walks of the park totaling many yards in length were resurfaced with an excellent quality of gravel which was retained along the central walk by a curb of wood. This central walk was made a uniform width of twelve feet. Considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping the public on the walks and in keeping it from cutting the margins of the walks and by-paths across the lawn. Wires were strung in several places and other expedients used to stop the habit, but with slight success. About the only way these annoyances can be broken up will be by setting shrubbery and planting flowers at the points where the people insist on breaking away from the regular walks.

Two hundred and fifty-eight seats were loaned the department by the traction company for use in Collett park. With this addition to the equip-

ment of the park the large crowds attending the Sunday and Thursday night concerts were made much more comfortable. Several hundreds of the seats owned by the department were painted and put in good repair for the season. The growing popularity of the park as a family and party picnic ground made it necessary to construct a dozen more portable tables, making sixty tables in all or more than 700 linear feet of tables available for picnic parties.

The extreme cold of last December did much damage to the shrubbery and trees of the park. The privet hedge about the park was frozen and it was cut to the ground in the spring. The late freeze in the spring after the trees begun to put forth leaves seriously injured the walnut and hickory trees. All of the vegetation eventually recovered and throve, but with less vitality than would have been the case with milder weather.

Lightning storms, injudicious trimming, insects and fungous diseases are gradually destroying the splendid native forest that once covered Collett park. More than twenty species of original native trees may yet be found in the park. There were formerly many splendid specimens of the black walnut (Juglans nigra) and pig hickory (Carya porcina) but these are rapidly disappearing chiefly through the agency of destructive insects. More than half a hundred dead trees of these species were cut down during the last year. In the fall the stumps were removed from the lawn and the holes filled and left in condition for sodding in the spring. The remaining trees of these kinds are doomed at an early date unless great care is taken to save them.

The black walnut, like the American Indian, apparently does not thrive in its native soil and surroundings upon the encroachment of civilization. Trees that had their origin in the primal forest will not stand the careless hand of man. When transplanted, however, they seem to accept the change and become more hardy.

The walnut trees of Collett park have been carelessly handled. The onslaughts of insects have been forthered by ignorant tree trimmers. The bark boring beetle species of which are enemies to most trees, has killed many of the finest specimens. The only remedy for this pest is to cut out the dead trees and the affected parts of the live ones and burn the wood.

The United States Department of Agriculture in the discussion of insect injuries to hardwood forest trees says: "The principal insect injuries which result in the death of trees are burrows through and beneath the living bark of the trunks. There are two distinct classes of these injuries, one caused by bark-boring beetles, the other by bark boring larvae or grubs. In both cases the injury is done to the bark.

Within recent years the dying of the hickory trees has attracted considerable attention in the Central and Western states. Thousands of trees, and in some sections nearly all of those in forests, parks and on farms, have perished. The dying of the hickories has been found in every case investi-

gated to be the result of injuries to the buds and twigs and to the bark and trunk by the hickory bark-beetle (Scolytus 4-spinosus Say)

The hickory bark-beetle is a short stout, shining black or reddish-brown beetle averaging 0.14 inch in length. It appears on wing in May to August and begins its attack on the living trees at the base of the bud and leaves, apparently for the purpose of obtaining food later it enters the bark of the larger branches and top of the trunk and excavates short longitudinal burrows in the inner bark and surface of the wood The eggs which are placed along the sides of this gallery, hatch into small white grubs or larvae which burrow out at right angles to the original burrow The grub passes the winter in these galleries, hatch into the adult in the spring and then emerge through a small round hole in the outer bark.

The first indication of attack is shown by the leaves, some of which die and remain on the twigs, while others fall early in the season. Later, in July and August, the larger branches of the entire top may die, while the lower branches and trunk may remain in normal condition Sometimes the entire tree may be killed the first season.

The fact that there is but a single generation annually and that the generations pass the winter in an immature state in the bark makes it a comparatively easy pest to control. It is only necessary to determine which trees are infested at the beginning of winter, and to see that these are cut and the bark burned before the middle of the following May In some cases it will be advisable, when the tops and branches only are dead and infested to cut out the infested parts and save the rest of the tree

Early last spring it was suspected that the condition of the hickory trees as well as others in Collett park, was due to the boring beetle The attention of Benjamin W Douglas, State Entomologist, was called to the matter and his deputy Mr Everett Smith came to the city and after a careful inspection verified the diagnosis. Upon his recommendation the above treatment was followed and the affected trees were cut down and burned and the infected parts of many others removed.

Other trees are affected, particularly the oaks and elms, and they should be given attention at the earliest possible date An effort has been made to do something this year The dead trees have been cut down and burned. The dead wood which furnishes homes for dangerous insects and fungi is being trimmed out and treated in an intelligent manner This work should be continued from year to year in a careful and systematic manner

At the north entrance from Collett avenue has been commenced a rustic stone entrance which is intended to carry small lights This entrance is intended to serve two purposes the principal one being to afford light at a point where it is badly needed, and the other to lend an added charm to that part of the park.

Heavy iron guards of gas pipe have been placed at the main entrance at

PLAYGROUNDS, COLLEGE PARK

Maple avenue and Eighth street These guards not only protect the lawn strips but add to the appearance of the entrance at that point.

Twenty-five trees of several different species were set out on the grounds in the spring. A dozen or more of Ampelopsis were planted about the refreshment pavilion and in the course of time will cover that building with a handsome dress that will add much to its appearance. Climbing roses of the Crimson Rambler and Dorothy Perkins varieties were planted about the rest house and suitable trellises erected for their support.

More than a dozen boxes for housing the squirrels were made and placed in trees about the park. Receptacles containing food and water for them were also placed about the grounds easy of access to these little fellows. Fully half a hundred squirrels now inhabit the trees of the park and the surrounding groves. It is suggested that the reason for the slow increase in their number is the country dog and small boy. The hedge about the grounds is not yet high enough or strong enough to prevent dogs, passing with farmer's wagons, leaping into the park and worrying the squirrels. Then, too, when a squirrel leaves the confines of the park it takes its life in its hand so to speak. Irresponsible men and boys patrol the hollow beyond Seventh street shooting every live thing that appears.

In addition to the work on the trees which should be continued as opportunity offers and experienced help is to be had for the work, some other improvements are to be recommended. The central walk should be paved with some suitable material such as brick, concrete or asphalt. It is very difficult to keep the public on the gravel. The grassy lawn on the sides offers such desirable footing that paths are beaten on the sides.

The driveways are becoming badly worn and it is only a matter of time until they must be partially or wholly rebuilt. The contour of the driveways is such that in most parts they are fairly well drained. There are, however, a few places that should be attended to, particularly near the refreshment pavilion, where the water stands to a considerable depth after a rain. Relief could be given here by means of catch basins and sewers connecting with the sewer draining the pavilion.

It is also recommended that the play-grounds be enlarged by adding more apparatus and improving the grounds already set aside for that purpose by treating them in some manner to eliminate the dust which is quite a nuisance when the grounds are crowded.

Because of the difficulty in keeping the public on the main or central walk it is suggested that a border of flowers or trailing vines be placed for a part or all of the distance along this walk.

The water system of the park is very poor. Abundance of water available at all times is essential to keep the lawns and flowers in proper condition. Experience has shown that the system of pipes in Collett park is entirely inadequate in a dry season. There are now only eight plugs for watering the lawn and flowers in the twenty-five acres of the park. There

ought to be at least twenty-five hydrants in the park on pipes of sufficient size to give a good pressure when several were in use

It is also a matter of only a short time until the lighting system of the park must be overhauled. When first erected old poles and in some cases other old material were used. The lamps are too high, much of their light being cut off by the trees. They are placed in regular rows without reference to giving the best results. In the plans for the future of this park a conduit lighting system should be considered that would carry the light lower down and more evenly distribute it

City Park

The public appreciates more every day the wisdom of the purchase of this little tract of land, practically in the heart of the city. The opprobrious nick name of "Hobo Park," given it at the time of its purchase, because of the belief that its chief value would be to furnish a rendezvous for the gentry of the road, is now seldom heard, and it is hoped, will soon be forgot altogether. Being on Wabash avenue, one of the most public thoroughfares of the city, it will aid very greatly in giving the traveler a good impression of the city.

Several important improvements were made in this park during the summer. Chief of these was the erection of a public comfort station at a cost of $1,600. The building is very complete having toilets and lavatory for ladies and toilets for men. The building is constructed of glazed brick throughout and is covered with red tile. It also contains a small tool room for the use of the keeper of the park.

While there was some opposition to the erection of the building at first, it is now conceded by every one to be a handsome and very necessary structure. It is so located that it does not intrude itself in any way upon the park picture.

Two concrete sidewalks were constructed through the park, giving an outlet from Fifteenth street and Gilbert avenue to Wabash avenue. The old walks were of crushed stone, somewhat worn that became very sticky and muddy in wet weather, making new ones necessary.

A bed of peonies and a terraced flower bed were permanent additions made to the park. Several new flower beds were made in the spring and summer that gave more color to the park. The low ground about the new toilet building was filled and gravel walks for men and women were constructed. The grounds were kept in good condition and on the whole this park was a credit to the city

Attention should be given at the very earliest date to the driveway about the fountain. It should be paved with some satisfactory material. The Kellastone Company proposed to pave it last summer but for some reason did not do so. Curb and gutters should be placed along the driveway

Either macadam and tar or brick should be used for paving. At any rate oil should be applied to eliminate the dust.

It is recommended that a conduit lighting system be installed in City Park next year. Lights on standards like those used in the Thompson Park system are expensive. It is suggested that a pillar of brick similar in character to the columns of the comfort station, surmounted by a single globe containing a high power tungsten lamp, would answer the purpose and be quite ornamental. Five or six standards such as suggested could be placed about the grounds and would add materially to the appearance of the park at night.

It is further recommended that additions be made to the large fountain. This might be done at small expense and would improve the appearance of the fountain greatly. It is suggested that several tubs of water lilies be placed in the fountain pool which, with the gold fish, would make this central feature of the park even more attractive than it has been heretofore.

Pillars of stone or brick on either side of Gilbert avenue with ornamental lights upon them would make an entrance to the park that would add to the general ensemble. A small shed or structure of some sort over the pump at the intersection of Gilbert avenue and Wabash avenue would be worth while.

The Soldiers and Sailors monument, the bust of Col. Richard W. Thompson in the court house yard and the Claude Herbert fountain at Fifth and Wabash avenue represent Terre Haute's sole appreciation of her worthy and heroic representatives. Further comment is unnecessary but the suggestion is made here that City Park offers itself as a proper and logical location for a handsome monument of any character that the city, an individual or an organization might see fit to erect. Other cities ornament their parks with monuments and memorials, then, why not Terre Haute.

Thompson Park

Thompson Park was made one of the beauty spots of the city during the last year. A concrete curb and a hedge of California privet were placed about the park at considerable expense. Walks were laid out and graveled. One hundred fifty young trees consisting of more than ten different species were set out during the year. The loss in transplanting was small. The dead ones will be replaced in the spring. The grass got an excellent start and the lawn was in splendid condition at the end of the season. The abundance of water in this park makes it a comparatively easy matter to keep the lawn and other vegetable life in good form.

One of the greatest improvements was the installation of a conduit lighting system. Four handsome concrete standards bearing five 100 watt tungsten lamps were installed at a cost of almost $400. These lights were put in and tested out rather late in the fall and found to be entirely satisfactory.

Because of the fragile nature of the globes they were removed and stored for the winter.

Eleven large flower beds filled with standard blooming plants added greatly to the appearance of the park. Benches will be placed in the park next season for the accommodation of the public. It is also recommended that a pump be installed in the excellent well at the north side of the grounds and an appropriate housing for it together with a tool room to be erected next year. The opening of Eighteenth street, the naming of the street on the south Thompson avenue, and the erection of a number of new dwellings about the park have aroused the interest and pride of the people of the vicinity.

There is no place to keep the tools used at this park except a small shed located on private grounds. This is annoying as the shed had to be moved two or three times last season. As stated before, there is an excellent well in the north part of this park over which might be erected an ornamental structure that would keep in the back ground the necessary tool house. This building constructed along lines of a plan now in the hands of the superintendent would cost a nominal figure. It is recommended that such a building be erected next spring.

It was part of the original plan to erect an ornamental fountain in the central part of this park at a point about where the flower mound now is. This would be an improvement that could be made at no great expense.

The construction of these two features in addition with the benches which it is proposed to put out next year would practically place this park in perfect condition.

Ohio Boulevard

Ohio Boulevard has been one of the most attractive drives for pleasure seekers in the city during the summer. The lawn has been kept in excellent condition. One hundred seven ornamental trees were set in the grass plats early in the spring and, notwithstanding a late freeze and a short drought, all but three survived the season and made an excellent start. During a dry season it would be difficult to keep these sections in good form by reason of the lack of water. Water for the lawn and trees must be taken from private hydrants or applied by means of a street sprinkler—a somewhat expensive method. There is but one private hydrant between Tenth and One-half street and Thirteenth street. At some time in the future water should be put in each section.

Rose Park

Slight improvements were made at this park during the year. Privet hedge was placed entirely around the grounds at considerable cost. Several hundred loads of dirt were used in filling low places. The old Pflaging

homestead which occupies one corner of the park was wired for electric lights and new gutter was placed on the house. A tenant occupied this residence for a part of the summer. The grounds were cultivated and worked somewhat in anticipation of a more thorough development next year.

There is an insistent demand on the part of the residents of that part of the city for the development of this park. Several offers were made during the last year of gifts to the city of ornaments for the park if work was begun at an early date.

Logically this is the next park to receive attention. There are now two parks fully developed south of Wabash avenue and but one north of that central thoroughfare. A plan will be formulated presently for the improvement of this ground and work along the lines adopted will be commenced at the earliest possible date. It is below the grade of the street in several places and considerable filling will need to be done in addition to what has been done already unless a plan is adopted that will obviate that difficulty. Efforts have been made to procure dirt in that vicinity, but without much success up till this time. Trees and shrubbery should be put out as soon as the plan of the park is adopted in order that no time may be lost in getting shade.

Memorial Park

Some work was done on this park during the year. Several hundred loads of dirt were used in covering the rubbish which had been dumped promiscuously over the grounds. Reinforced concrete curbing was placed on Seventh and Eighth avenues and on Third street about the section of the park west of Fourth street. Curbing was placed along Sixth street from Seventh to Eighth avenues.

Early in the season the board petitioned the Common Council for an appropriation for the complete development of this park but differences of opinions prevailed and nothing came of it. The City Engineer having prepared a plan for improving the park, donated considerable work in grading and graveling drives and walks.

It seems unnecessary to make any recommendations concerning this park at this time in view of the public attitude towards its improvement and the possibility of procuring funds for that purpose.

Voorhees Park

One of the first official acts of the board this year was the purchase of a strip of ground for $900 to be added to the east part of this park. The intention was to procure enough ground that a double row of city lots might be sold from that part of the park in order that money might be procured for the development of the rest of the park. Subsequently this plan was changed and the board petitioned the Council for the privilege of selling a

row of fifteen lots from the north side of the park. The petition was granted after some delay and the Circuit Court appointed appraisers for the purpose of fixing a price upon the lots. Daniel E. Reagan, Dr. Edward Reiss nad William Engle were appointed. The board of appraisers, after careful deliberation, fixed the value of the lots at $300 each.

By reason of the lack of funds there were no improvements attempted at this park during the year.

There is a large number of native forest trees on this ground. Many of them are dead and others are in a bad condition and need attention to preserve them. One of the first things to be done here is to take care of this timber, which if neglected, would require a lifetime to replace. Some of the dead trees were cut out during the fall and made into fire wood to get rid of the insects.

Some vandal ruined two of the handsomest trees of the lot by peeling the bark for commercial purposes. As a result two large wild cherry trees died during the summer. Though the grounds were posted with large signs forbidding trespassers, persons unknown to the board pastured horses and cattle on the grounds at various times during the summer. Irresponsible and careless teamsters have made short cuts across the property and beaten driveways and by paths in every direction in spite of the notices.

This suggests one of the first improvements to be made and one that should be given attention at an early date. Some sort of an inclosure should be placed about the park to protect it. It is recommended that this be done as soon as any of the money is available from the sale of lots. It is also recommended that some attention be bestowed upon the trees. A few rustic benches should be placed about the park. The lawn ought to be cultivated to rid it of a heavy growth of weeds.

Finance

The following statement of the receipts and expenditures of this department is more or less comprehensive. The fact that the law requires a report to be made to your Honor on December 1, while all of the other departments of the city make reports on December 31, will necessitate an appended statement at the end of the year for the month of December. An effort ought to be made to have this law amended making the report of this department due at the same time as the co-ordinate branches of the city government.

There has been a misconception on the part of many as to the actual financial condition of this department. An appropriation of $9,000 was made for current use in 1910. An additional $1,000 was carried over from 1909 for a specific purpose, that of paying W. R. McKeen a balance due on Voorhees park. None of the $9,000 could be used for the improvement of park properties, being appropriated for the specific purposes of light and labor. Had it not been for a considerable amount derived from the sale of the

WALKS, THOMPSON PARK

COMMISSIONERS

1910	1909
George A. Schaal	Joshua Jump
E. Z. Hanks	John G. Heixl
Frederick A. Reckert	Daniel B. Reagan
Lee Goodman	A. Herz

OFFICERS

Frederick A. Reckert, Chairman
Lee Goodman, Vice-Chairman
George Schaal, Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT

Frank Brubeck

CLERK

R. Owen Miller

PARK AREAS AND VALUATION

Collett Park	25.00 acres	$115,000.00
City Park	1.88 acres	53,000.00
Voorhees Park	13.00 acres	10,000.00
Thompson Park	2.58 acres	14,000.00
Rose Park	3.04 acres	20,000.00
Memorial Park	6.68 acres	16,000.00
Old Indian Cemetery	.50 acres	3,500.00
	52.68 acres	$231,500.00

Parsons Field lots and other sources a much larger appropriation would need to have been made. Funds derived from such sources amounting to $5,432, together with $900 appropriated later in the season for music, brought the total available funds for the department up to $16,332. Of this amount there remains at the time of this report an unexpended balance of $2,744, making the total expenditures for the eleven months of the year amount to $13,-587.72.

In this connection this board desires to suggest that in some manner the Department of Public Parks should be placed on a more substantial and independent financial basis than it is. If the maintenance of public parks is worth while in the City of Terre Haute it is worth while maintaining them right. That they are worth while has been demonstrated in several cases. The class of residences and the value of property about Collett Park; the character of houses that have been erected about Thompson Park during the last summer and the increased value of property in that vicinity, and the price at which lots are selling in the neighborhood of Voorhees Park, will convince the most skeptical that it is worth while. The department should not be handicapped by having a widely variable appropriation made from year to year. There should be funds available at all times for the improvements which the board may deem necessary for the good of the city and the pleasure and profit of its people. This end might be attained by a specific park tax assessed upon all real estate in the city or it might be done as in some other cities of the State, upon proper statutory amendment being made by a system of graduated assessments upon properties affected of benefits and damages as street improvements are now made.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS FROM JANUARY 1, 1910 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1910, INCLUSIVE.

Receipts.

Salary of superintendent and assistants (labor) Appropriation	$6,500.00	
Repairs and Incidentals—		
Sale of Parsons Field lots	4,577.00	
Sale of house in Memorial Park	125.00	
Rental of privilege, Collett Park	700.00	
Rental of Rose Park dwelling	30.00	$5,432.00
Light—		
Appropriation	2,500.00	
Music—		
Appropriation	900.00	

Carried Over—			
To pay balance on Voorhees Park		1,000.00	
Total moneys available			$16,332.00

Expenditures.

Salary of superintendent and assistants		$5,234.44	
Repairs and incidentals		5,470.74	
Light		1,047.02	
Music		836.50	
Paid W. R. McKeen on Voorhees Park		1,000.00	
Total expenditures			$13,588.72
Balance Nov. 30, 1910			2,743.28
Balance in each fund Nov. 30, 1910—			
Salary of superintendent and assistants (labor)		$6,500.00	
Vouchers drawn		5,234.44	
Balance			$1,265.56
Repairs and incidentals		$5,432.00	
Transferred from item of light		500.00	
Total in item available		$5,932.00	
Vouchers drawn		5,470.76	
Balance			$461.24
Light		$2,500.00	
Vouchers drawn	$1,047.02		
Transferred to item of incidentals, etc	500.00		
Total drawn and transferred		1,547.02	
Balance			$952.98
Music		$900.00	
Vouchers drawn		866.50	
Balance			$63.50
Balance in all funds Nov. 30, 1910			$2,743.28

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1910 TO DECEMBER 31, 1910, INCLUSIVE.

Expenditures.

Salary of Superintendent and Assistants (Labor)—		
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1910	$1,265.56	
Vouchers drawn in December	657.75	
Balance Dec. 31		$607.81
Repairs and Incidentals—		
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1910	$461.24	
Vouchers drawn in December	377.55	
Balance Dec. 31		$83.69
Light—		
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1910	$952.98	
Vouchers drawn in December	7.93	
Balance Dec. 31		$945.05
Music—		
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1910	$63.50	
Vouchers drawn in December	33.25	
Balance Dec. 31		$30.25
Balance in all funds Dec. 31, 1910		$1,666.80

In conclusion the members of this board desire to express the sincerest thanks to your Honor for the hearty manner in which you have co-operated with them in all things. They desire also to congratulate each other upon the harmonious way in which they have worked together and with the various departments of the city with which they have had dealings. They are glad of this opportunity to express their thanks to these different departments of the city government for the courteous treatment accorded them.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.
FREDERICK A. RECKERT,
Chairman.
LEE GOODMAN,
E. Z. HANKS,
GEORGE A. SCHAAL,
Secretary.